

a whiner, be a winner and a doer! Well, you asked, so here is my story.

I am a certificated flight instructor and had a very promising flight school in the Magic Valley (the only flight school in the valley) at the Jerome County Airport. Then 9/11. I learned two very good lessons after that: [there is little understanding of the real world among the bureaucrats who operate many agencies, and that too often the price for problems is paid by those who had nothing to do with the problem.]

While billions [were dumped] into the airline industry, [my business] went under. Just because I was grounded and held accountable for the actions of 9/11, my bills were not "grounded" and I ended up losing my airplanes, my business and every cent I had! Oh, well, no complaints, I was not in a rubble pile in D.C., or New York, New York, or dead at a crash site in Pennsylvania. My heart still hurts for those who lost their lives that day. Like I said, no complaints. I am a proud American that is used to pulling me up by the boot straps and, by the way, I was offered a low interest \$5,000 loan by the government; that would not have even covered my fuel bill! It has taken me years to pay off the losses, but I have. And I have been teaching flying lessons in student-owned planes. If they come to me without an airplane I have to turn them away. That means out of the Magic Valley because there had been no other flight schools open. Flying is not a privilege like driving, it is a right put down on paper by the Congress and the Senate!

Now to end this story—you ask for \$5.50 a gallon aviation fuel! It has put me completely out of the teaching game! Thanks a lot! (Not you.) I have been doing this teaching thing for the last 18 years. I do not know anything else! I am 52 years old, too old to start over and become an expert at anything else, I will not be on this planet long enough! Sure, I could go to Dubai, India, China or some other enemy country and teach their students how to fly and probably make a lot of money, but that is not what it is about. It is about molding good, safe and better American pilots! Not going to the Middle East and teaching the bucks. No, I will never do that! Never! I live in Idaho and that is where I will be put into the good potato-growing earth of Idaho!

I feel [let down by my elected officials.] Please keep up your effort to help us no-accounts here in Idaho! I do know that you are trying.

JIM, *Jerome.*

My husband is on permanent Social Security Disability. The high gas prices make it impossible for us to leave our area, and it is more expensive for me to drive to work. We just try to buy less groceries; no extras. I am really worried about purchasing propane next winter. The minimum you can now have delivered is \$300, and that does not even last a month. I hate to see what it will cost next winter. If gas prices do not go down, many living in Idaho will eat less and heat less!

BARBARA, *Idaho Falls.*

First I want to thank you for all the good work you are doing to represent your Idaho constituents. It is so refreshing to have an honest, wise thinking, conservative congressman. We have lived in liberal states in the past and it can be very discouraging.

About the fuel prices, I just want to share that I am a hospice nurse which requires that I drive all over Canyon and some of Ada counties. We do get paid mileage for our trips to and from our patients, but the \$.43 a mile is quickly being eaten up by the rising fuel prices. Also my husband and I are private pilots and love to fly over our beautiful state, but again the cost of fuel is making it

necessary to but back on those trips. What is so frustrating to us is knowing that we have plenty of oil in our own country, if our government would just allow production to increase. I also favor developing alternate energy. I especially think that nuclear energy can be developed safely and should be looked at very seriously.

LINDA and ALAN, *Nampa.*

It is very obvious that Russia is on an aggressive quest to control the global oil. The U.S. should have already been on top of this, but where are the leaders of the two Houses? They're on vacation (except for a few fighters) instead of attending to very important and critical issues. It is extremely important to deal with the energy issues as soon as possible. We have oil available in the Bakken Formation, Alaska and other areas, which contain the following estimates: 8 times as much oil as Saudi Arabia, 18 times as much oil as Iraq, 21 times as much oil as Kuwait, 22 times as much oil as Iran, 500 times as much oil as Yemen—all right here in the U.S.

The issues at hand are affecting the rapidly increasing day-to-day costs. Inflation is rising, not at .05%, rather more like 30%. For example, groceries are costing almost 50% more than in January. That is if one can afford the gasoline.

The COLA increase in the next budget for Social Security and the Military should be a minimum of 15%—just to stay even with rising costs.

This is not a time for partisan bickering. This is time for a conscience effort toward the business of American citizens.

GEORGE, *Craigmont.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER FONG

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased to pay tribute to San Francisco Police Chief Heather Fong as she retires from the city and county of San Francisco's Police Department after 32 years of dedicated service.

A lifelong Californian, Chief Fong was born and raised in the city of San Francisco. She grew up in a small flat on Bannam Place, a tiny alley in North Beach just outside Chinatown, and attended St. Rose Academy in the western addition. It was there that Fong was first exposed to the idea that she could pursue a career in law enforcement, when a visiting officer was brought into the academy to speak with the students. Fong quickly joined the San Francisco Police Athletic League's cadet academy, where she served for 2 years, and attended classes one night a week at the Hall of Justice. Following her graduation from St. Rose Academy, Fong pursued her undergraduate education at the University of San Francisco, and later received a master's degree in social work from San Francisco State University.

Chief Fong formally entered the police service when she was sworn in as a San Francisco police officer in 1977. Just one month into the job, she played a crucial role in the investigation of the massacre in Chinatown's Golden Dragon restaurant; her work resulted in four convictions. Because of

her dedication and strong work ethic, Fong was given a beat along Clement Street with a veteran police officer, where she quickly learned the ropes. Two years later, in 1979, Fong transferred to the Police Academy, where she became the first female instructor, an honor not usually given to young officers.

Fong has served the San Francisco Police Department in various capacities over her 32 years of service, working her way through the ranks of inspector, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, commander, deputy chief, assistant chief, acting chief, and finally, chief.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed Fong acting chief of Police on January 22, 2004 and chief of police on April 14, 2004. Fong was the first woman to become chief of police for San Francisco and the Nation's first Asian American woman to lead a major city's police department. Chief Fong is deserving of a very relaxing retirement—in her 5 years as police chief, she never took one vacation.

I admire Chief Fong's 32 years of dedicated service to the people of San Francisco. Along with her friends and admirers throughout the San Francisco Bay area, I thank her for her tireless efforts and wish her the best as she embarks on the next phase of her life.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANDREW MOORE

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I recognize Dr. Andrew Moore of Lexington, KY, for being the recipient of the Fayette County Hero of the Year presented by the Bluegrass Area Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Hero of the Year award was presented to Dr. Moore on April 23, 2009. The Heroes campaign fosters community awareness and generates funds to support the mission and services of the American Red Cross.

Dr. Moore is the founder and president of the nonprofit organization Surgery on Sunday, which provides outpatient surgical services to income-eligible individuals and families who are without health insurance and are not eligible for Federal or State assistance. Patients are referred to the program by community organizations and receive medical procedures that range from general operations to dental work and reconstructive surgeries.

In its first year of operation, Surgery on Sunday provided services to more than 150 individuals without health insurance or the means to pay. By the end of its second year, the organization had performed more than 2,000 procedures. It is estimated that \$1.5 million worth of medical services has been donated by more than 600 volunteer surgeons, physicians, nurses, and other health professionals.

I would like to thank Dr. Moore and all of the volunteers for Surgery on Sunday for their contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Dr. Moore is truly an inspiration to all Kentuckians and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.●